

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



487760

July 22, 1980

TO: Files

FROM: Jim Turek, District 3 *AK*

SUBJECT: Investigation of Reported Dump Site at TRW-Portland

On July 17, 1980, staff investigated a report of an old dump site at TRW, Michigan Division in Portland. The company contact during this investigation was Keith Patterson, Manager of Industrial Engineering. Mr. Patterson was cooperative and provided all requested information to the best of his ability. Mr. Patterson has been employed at the plant since 1956. The following is a summary of this investigation:

1. Prior to 1972, the company operated a small oil sludge pit on the southeast corner of the plant site. Waste oil from presses in the plant was disposed of in this pit. Mr. Patterson will provide an estimate of the volume of material disposed of. He will also try to determine the composition of the oils disposed of from old product literature.
2. In 1972, the sludge pit was discontinued. The oils which had accumulated there were removed by a waste hauler. The pit was filled in with scrap parts and sand. No capacitors, transformers or other PCB materials were disposed of in the pit with Mr. Patterson's knowledge.
3. "Oil Dry" used to absorb small oil spills in the plant had been dumped over a steep bank near the oil pit. This material is still evident as it was never covered.
4. All materials presently generated at the plant are disposed of in a proper manner according to present regulations.
5. Staff directed the company to prepare a study plan for determining the extent of contamination (if any) resulting from these past practices. The study may include: Soil borings, backhoe cuts, and sampling for PCB's and oils. The results of this study will be used as a basis for a cleanup plan.

JMT/mc

cc: J. Bohunsky  
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W.Q.D. Files, Lansing

